

# *The Bodhi Seal of the Patriarchs*

*by Venerable Master Hsu Yun and Venerable Master Hua*

## *The Thirty-seventh Patriarch Dhyana Master Ling You*



THE MASTER WAS BORN IN FU CHOU IN THE JAO FAMILY. AT THE AGE OF TWENTY-THREE HE CALLED UPON the Thirty-Sixth Patriarch, Dhyana Master BAI JANG, WHO ALLOWED HIM TO ENTER HIS ROOM. He became a room-entering disciple of Patriarch Bai Jang. FROM THE CONDITIONS SURROUNDING POKING A FIRE, HE BECAME ENLIGHTENED WHILE FILLING THE POST OF KITCHEN MANAGER. PATRIARCH BAI JANG THEN APPOINTED HIM ABBOT AND TEACHING MASTER AT MOUNT WEI-in Hu Nan Province, SAYING, "I HAVE BEEN TRANSFORMING THOSE WITH AFFINITIES IN THAT SUPREME ENVIRONMENT OF MOUNT WEI. YOU SHOULD DWELL THERE AS HEIR TO MY LINEAGE, AND VASTLY CROSS OVER THOSE WHO COME TO STUDY THERE."

There was at the time the Senior-seated Bhikshu name HWA LIN, who, UPON HEARING THAT SAID, "But he's just a kitchen manager! WHY DOES THE KITCHEN MANAGER GET TO BE ABBOT INSTEAD OF ME, THE HEAD MONK?"

Dhyana Master BAI JANG SAID, "All right, I'll ask you a one-line question, and IF YOU CAN IMMEDIATELY, UPON GETTING THAT ONE LINE, SHOW THE GREAT ASSEMBLY that you have what it takes, THAT YOU TRANSCEND THE RANK-AND-FILE and are an extraordinary person, THEN I WILL GIVE YOU THE ABBOTSHIP THERE."

Hwa Lin said, "Go ahead and ask."

Dhyana Master BAI JANG THEREUPON POINTED TO THE PURE-WATER URN AND ASKED HIM, "IF YOU DON'T CALL THAT A PURE-WATER URN, WHAT DO YOU CALL IT? What's your reply?"

HWA LIN thought it over and SAID, "Well, YOU COULDN'T CALL IT A WOODEN STRAINER." He said it would never do to term a pure-water container a wooden sieve. So, he didn't pass muster.

Dhyana Master BAI JANG THEN ASKED THE MASTER Ling You. THE MASTER with one blow of his foot KICKED OVER THE PURE-WATER URN AND LEFT. He toppled the urn with a fast kick, and walked out. Dhyana Master BAI JANG LAUGHED AND SAID to Hwa Lin, "You've lost the Abbotship. YOU SIT IN THE FIRST SEAT, BUT YOU'VE LOST TO A HILLBILLY!" THE MASTER, Dhyana Master Ling You, then PROCEEDED TO MAKE HIS APPEARANCE AT MOUNT WEI to teach and transform living beings, FROM WHICH THE WEI YANG LINEAGE TAKES ITS NAME.

A VERSE IN PRAISE OF HIM SAYS:

HE KICKED OVER THE PURE WATER URN,  
AND MOUNT WEI'S BILLOWS SURGED,  
WHILE A WATER BUFFALO GLARED MENACINGLY  
IN THE SHADE OF THE WILLOWS OF AFFINITIES.  
NEITHER SOLITARY NOR IDLE,  
WHAT UNDERLAY THE APPOINTMENT?  
ONE BRANCH SET OUT CROSSWISE:  
A SPRING BREEZE THROUGH PEACHES AND PLUMS.

ANOTHER VERSE IN PRAISE OF HIM SAYS:

THE EFFICACIOUS REFINEMENT OF FU JOU;  
THE JAO FAMILY HAD A SON VERY SKILLED AT KITCHEN  
MANAGEMENT.  
THE PURE-WATER URN KICKED OVER WAS NOT AN IDLE THEORY.  
THE VESSEL OF DHARMA BEING WROUGHT WAS MOST JUST AND  
FAIR.  
MOUNT WEI'S SOARING BREEZE SWEEPED THE SOUTHERN COUNTRY.  
PATRIARCH YOU'S LOFTY CHARACTER TOWERED OVER THE  
WESTERN CAPITAL.  
ONE BRANCH WAS SENT OUT COVERED WITH PEACHES AND  
PLUMS.

FROM THE MYRIAD DIRECTIONS CAME HIS STUDENTS AND THE  
THREE TREASURES FLOURISHED.

It says that Fu Jou at that time was a very refined and elegant spot, and so it nurtured Dragons and Elephants within the Dharma. Dhyana Master Ling You was born in the Jao family, and he was expert at instructing the kitchen personnel how to prepare fine rice and vegetables so that the cultivators of the Way could eat very well. His kicking over the pure-water urn was definitely not a joke. The Dharma vessel was fashioned in a most fair and equitable manner, and Mount Wei became the leader of the southern country. That is because the Old Man of Mount Wei's manner was lofty and superior. He was an outstanding person who stood outside ordinary. He was indeed a dragon, an elephant within the Dharma. Patriarch Ling You through his loftiness of character, transcended all the virtuous High Sanghans of the Western Capital, meaning the Chang An area. In Hu Nan it was as if a single branch of a solitary tree was covered with peaches and plums; there were that many people within his door. From all the myriad directions students flocked to study with him, and so the Triple Jewel greatly flourished at that time.

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